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Economic and Social Council

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United Nations Forum on Forests
Second session
4-15 March 2002
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its second session

Draft report

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Ana Patricia **Chaves** (Costa Rica)

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2000/35, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. The Forum held its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 15 March 2002.

II. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Council

[To be completed]

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

[To be completed]

III. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Forum held its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 15 March 2002. The Forum held __ meetings (1st to __). Working Groups I and II held several meetings during the session.

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3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who also made a statement.

4. The President of the Economic and Social Council, Ivan Šimonović (Croatia), made a statement.

5. The coordinator and head of the Secretariat of the Forum made a statement.

6. The Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests also made a statement.

B. Attendance

7. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2000/35, the Forum is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with full and equal participation. Representatives of the following States attended the session:

[To be completed]

8. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented:

[To be completed]

9. The following specialized agencies were represented:

[To be completed]

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

[To be completed]

11. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

[To be completed]

C. Election of officers

12. The officers of the Forum for its second session, as elected at its 1st and 2nd meetings, held on 22 June 2001 and 4 March 2002, were as follows:

Chairman:
Knut Øistad (Norway)

Vice-Chairmen:
Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria)
Alexey Kornienko (Russian Federation)
Hossein Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur:
Ana Patricia Chaves (Costa Rica)

D. Adoption of the agenda

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 March, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda for the session as contained in document E/CN.18/2002/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
   (a) Means of implementation: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management;
   (b) Progress in implementation:
      (i) Combating deforestation and forest degradation;
      (ii) Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems;
      (iii) Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover;
      (iv) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests;
      (v) Concepts, terminology and definitions.
4. Common items for each session:
   (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
   (b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination;
   (c) Country experience and lessons;
   (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;
   (e) Intersessional work;
   (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;
   (g) Promoting public participation;
   (h) National forest programmes;
   (i) Trade;
   (j) Enabling environment.
5. High-level ministerial segment.
6. Ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
7. Date and venue for the third session of the Forum.
8. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Forum.
9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its second session.

E. Documentation

14. The list of documents before the Forum at its first session is contained in the annex.

F. Establishment of working groups and designation of their chairmen

15. At its 2nd meeting, on __ March, the Forum decided to establish two working groups at its second session. Upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum designated Hossein Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman of the Forum, to chair Working Group I, and Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria), Vice-Chairman of the Forum, to chair Working Group II.

G. Informal consultations on the establishment of ad hoc expert groups

16. The Forum also held informal consultations on the establishment of ad hoc expert groups, which were chaired by the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Ana Patricia Chaves (Costa Rica).

H. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its organizational session

[To be completed]

III. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests

17. The Forum discussed agenda item 3 at meetings of the working groups and at its __ plenary meeting, on ___ March. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests (E/CN.18/2002/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on combating deforestation and forest degradation (E/CN.18/2002/6);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation of rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover (E/CN.18/2002/7);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and reporting, including concepts, terminology and definitions (E/CN.18/2002/8);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems (E/CN.18/2002/9);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (E/CN.18/2002/CRP.1).

Action taken by the Forum

[To be completed]

IV. Common items for each session

18. The Forum discussed agenda item 4 at meetings of its working groups and at its __ plenary meeting, on ___ March. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2002/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on national forest programmes (E/CN.18/2002/4);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on trade and sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2002/5);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, assessment and reporting, including concepts, terminology and definitions (E/CN.18/2002/8);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2002/10);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management transmitting a discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological communities working on forest-related fields (E/CN.18/2002/10/Add.1);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management transmitting a discussion paper contributed by private non-industrial forest owners (E/CN.18/2002/10/Add.2);

(h) Letter dated 18 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2002/12);

(i) Note verbale dated 15 February 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2002/13).

Action taken by the Forum

[To be completed]

V. High-level ministerial segment

19. The Forum discussed agenda item 5, at its __ meeting, on ____ March. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat on the main issues for consideration at the high-level ministerial segment (E/CN.18/2002/11).

Action taken by the Forum

[To be completed]

VI. Ministerial dialogue with heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

20. The Forum discussed agenda item 6, at its ___ meeting, on ____ March. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat on the main issues for consideration at the high-level ministerial segment (E/CN.18/2002/11).

Action taken by the Forum

[To be completed]

VII. Date and venue for the third session of the Forum in 2003

[To be completed]

VII. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Forum

[To be completed]

Annex

List of documents before the Forum at its second session

[To be completed]

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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Agenda item 5
High-level ministerial segment

Ministerial declaration and message to the World Summit for Sustainable Development submitted by the Chairman of the high-level ministerial segment, Juan Mayr Maldonado (Colombia), on the basis of informal consultations

1. We, the Ministers responsible for forests in our countries, reaffirm our commitment to the Forest Principles and Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Since then, significant progress has been made. Deliberations within the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), as well as the United Nations Forum on Forests, have enriched our common understanding of forest issues and their complexity. We recognize the significant contribution made by the regional processes and encourage their continued strengthening. We also recognize that much remains to be done.

2. We commit ourselves to the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. While recognizing that countries have the primary responsibility to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action, we underline the importance for the international community to strengthen cooperation in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building, which are essential to ensure sustainable forest management in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. We stress the importance of national forest programmes or similar approaches, the role of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and voluntary certification systems.

3. We underscore that forests and trees outside forests cover nearly one third of the earth's land surface, and that the economic, social and environmental well-being of the planet and humanity is closely linked with sustainable forest management. We are concerned about the continuing high rate of worldwide deforestation, as well as forest and land degradation, and commit ourselves to work to reverse these trends.

4. We reaffirm that States have the sovereign and inalienable right to utilize, manage and develop their forests in accordance with their development needs and

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level of socio-economic development and on the basis of national policies consistent with sustainable development and legislation, including the conversion of such areas for other uses within the overall socio-economic development plan and based on rational land-use policies, and consistent with the other Forest Principles.

5. Sustainable forest management of both natural and planted forests is essential to achieving sustainable development. Forests affect and are affected by other sectors. Therefore, policies and approaches in all sectors should be developed with consideration of their cross-sectoral impacts.

6. The management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests involves reconciling diverse and sometimes conflicting interests and is the concern of Governments, public and private owners, managers and other stakeholders. We stress the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in activities aimed towards sustainable forest management. Numerous opportunities exist and should be taken for public/private partnerships to foster synergies as policies and programmes are developed and implemented.

7. One of the challenges to achieve sustainable forest management is to make it self-financing in the long run and to recognize the value of the multiple functions, goods and services provided by forests. We affirm the importance of trade, as well as trade capacity-building, to sustainable forest management. National and international public and private sources of finance have complementary roles in achieving this goal. Official development assistance (ODA), at the levels already agreed, will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives and other agreed sustainable development objectives, in particular to foster sustainable forest management.

8. The linkages between forests, poverty, patterns of production and consumption and international cooperation, as well as governance at all levels, are crucial to addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. We underscore the role that sustainable forest management plays in all countries to eradicate poverty and to achieve sustainable development, including rural development and sustainable livelihoods.

9. We underline the unique character of the international arrangement on forests, established to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels through a holistic and comprehensive approach. We commit ourselves to strengthen the Forum's leading role and to make the Forum a success. We endorse its plan of action, welcome its multi-year programme of work and support the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. We stress the need for cross-sectoral cooperation among Partnership members, regional processes and Governments at the national and international levels.

10. We further stress the need for the Forum to promote synergies with related UNCED conventions, exchange country experiences and lessons learned and to engage in a dialogue with Partnership member organizations as well as other stakeholders.

11. We call upon the Partnership to support the work of the Forum and to contribute actively to the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, including through their technical and financial resources. We note the Partnership framework to support the work of the Forum, and we invite Partnership member countries to ensure that those priority areas are addressed by their governing bodies.

12. The work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant conventions complements and supports the Forum plan of action. We invite the parties to those Conventions to support, as appropriate, the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the context of the implementation of national action programmes and strategies, and encourage effective cooperation and coordination among the Conventions and the Forum as well as between their secretariats and the Forum secretariat.

13. We underscore that forests are a major and rich reservoir of biological diversity and encourage effective cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and Forum secretariats in areas of mutual interest. We note with appreciation the preparation of a revised action-oriented programme of work on forests and biodiversity to be considered at the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention.

14. The World Summit on Sustainable Development represents a unique opportunity to strengthen political commitment and promote international cooperation in sustainable forest management, as well as to support the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. We call for concrete and specific initiatives on the ground to achieve sustainable development and promote partnerships among interested Governments and stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations. We see such partnerships as a useful approach to explore with relevant stakeholders ways and means to identify action-oriented initiatives to strengthen the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action.

15. We invite the Summit to:

(a) Advance sustainable forest management as a critical means to eradicate poverty, reduce land and resource degradation, improve food security as well as access to safe drinking water and affordable energy, and highlight the multiple benefits of both natural and planted forests and trees to the well-being of the planet and humanity;

(b) Enhance political commitment to achieve sustainable forest management by endorsing it as a priority on the international political agenda, taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors through integrated approaches;

(c) Urge developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to encourage developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, to acknowledge the efforts of all donors, to commend donors whose ODA contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the target, and to underline the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

(d) Call for immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement and illegal international trade in forest products, including in forest biological resources, with the support of the international community, to provide human and institutional capacity-building related to the enforcement of national legislation in those areas;

(e) Call for immediate action at national and international levels to promote and facilitate the means to achieving sustainable timber harvesting, and thereby address unsustainable timber harvesting;

(f) Call especially for initiatives to address the needs of those parts of the world that currently suffer from poverty and the highest rates of deforestation and where international cooperation would be welcome by affected Governments;

(g) Create and strengthen partnerships and international cooperation to facilitate the provision of increased financial resources, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, trade, capacity-building, forest law enforcement and governance at all levels, and integrated land and resource management to implement sustainable forest management, including the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

(h) Strengthen international cooperation on finance, transfer of environmentally sound technology, trade and capacity-building to ensure sustainable forest management;

(i) Call on countries and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to accelerate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and intensify efforts on reporting to the Forum to contribute to an assessment of progress in 2005.

16. We, the Ministers, pledge our continued commitment to the international arrangement on forests and involvement in the Forum, and agree to meet again at the fifth session of the Forum, in 2005, to review the effectiveness of this international arrangement against the criteria to be agreed upon.